Gone are the days of “safe, legal and rare.” Lately, we see abortion supporters firmly embracing abortion-on-demand publicly.

Pro-abortion legislators are looking to protect Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton by codifying abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in state law. Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia discussed infanticide on the radio. Amelia Bonow from Shout Your Abortion is writing a children’s book. Leana Wen, the new president of Planned Parenthood, frankly admitted abortion is their core mission.

Despite this newfound clarity, they realize that honesty about late-term abortion is bad strategy.

In Michigan, there were 3,461 reported abortions in the second and third trimesters in 2017. Though abortion advocates like to claim that late-term abortions are rare, there were more abortions after 20 weeks in Michigan (434) than gun homicides (417). Who would say that homicides committed with a gun are rare? How many news stories have mentioned them lately? How many news stories have mentioned them lately?

Let’s dig a little deeper. How do late-term abortions actually work?

The most common late-term abortion procedure is the dilation and evacuation method, (D&E). There were 1,777 reported D&E abortions in Michigan in 2017.

The pro-life movement has dubbed these D&E abortions “dismemberment abortions.” Abortion advocates like to claim that pro-lifers muddy the waters when they don’t use the “medical” terminology the abortion industry has invented. Let’s describe what a dismemberment abortion is, and you judge who is being honest and who is employing euphemism to confuse people.

This is the description that pro-abortion former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy used to describe D&E abortions:

“After sufficient dilation, a doctor inserts grasping forceps through the woman’s cervix and into the uterus to grab a living fetus. The doctor grips a fetal part with the forceps and pulls it back through the cervix and vagina, continuing to pull even after meeting resistance from the cervix. The friction causes the fetus to tear apart. For example, a leg might be ripped off the fetus as it is pulled through the cervix and out of the woman. The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: it bleeds to death as it is torn apart limb by limb.”

So, which word accurately describes what happens to the baby? Dismemberment or evacuation?

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, “No one would dispute that, for many, D&E is a procedure itself laden with the power to devalue human life.” It is, and it’s time for them to end.

Why Do Women Have Abortions?

In discussing late-term abortions, abortion supporters always want to talk about disabled children or health problems the woman is facing. Even when discussing abortion in the first trimester, abortion supporters focus on those reasons and abortion in cases of rape.

Are those reasons actually representative of the majority of women who have abortions? Let’s look at information published by the abortion industry itself for an answer.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) used to be formally affiliated with Planned Parenthood, but still releases pro-abortion research on behalf of the entire abortion industry. They are named after the late Alan Guttmacher, who served as president of Planned Parenthood and vice president of the American Eugenics Society.

In 2004, the AGI completed a comprehensive survey of 1,209 women who had abortions. They asked the women for the single most important reason they were having their abortion, and here are the results:

- 25%: Not ready for a(nother) child/timing is wrong
- 23%: Can’t afford a baby now
- 19%: Have completed my childbearing
- 8%: Don’t want to be a single mother/relationship problems
- 7%: Don’t feel mature enough
- 4%: Would interfere with education/career
- 4%: Physical problem with my health
- 3%: Possible problems with the child
- Less than 0.5%: Was a victim of rape
- Other reasons were 6%

Nearly 100% of pro-abortion talking points and discussions of the abortion issue address only 7% of reasons women have abortions. The vast majority of abortions are purely elective for social or economic reasons. The abortion industry knows this, but won’t say it loudly.

What about late-term abortions?

In 2013, the AGI published a study titled, “Who Seeks Abortions at or After 20 Weeks?” The study authors were forced to frankly admit that, “Data suggest that most women seeking later terminations are not doing so for reasons of fetal anomaly or life endangerment.”

That study looks into that majority of women who are seeking elective abortions after 20 weeks, and found the following:

“Most women seeking later abortion fit at least one of five profiles: They were raising children alone, were depressed or using illicit substances, were in conflict with a male partner or experiencing domestic violence, had trouble deciding and then had access problems, or were young and nulliparous.”
Just One Thing Today

Barbara Listing, President
Right to Life of Michigan

It's been a long road we've traveled together—46 years since the infamous twin U.S. Supreme Court decisions, Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, legalized abortion-on-demand through all nine months of pregnancy. Prolife leaders and legal scholars knew the decisions gave a pregnant woman the right to kill her unborn child up to birth, if she could find an abortionist willing to do it.

Did the public believe this was the case? Did the public believe our dire predictions of infanticide?

Of course not. Why would they when the media portrayed the decisions as only allowing for abortion in the first trimester? Why would they when elected officials talked about abortion being only for those rare circumstances? Why would they when pastors were silent or only mentioned abortion one day of the year?

Emboldened by what they wrongly assume is public opinion and terrified by a looming Court decision returning the abortion issue to the states, pro-abortion officials are calling for state laws making abortion legal up to birth.

Finally, this panic move by pro-abortion politicians is awakening the American public to the reality of abortion in America.

Now it is up to prolife advocates to seize this opportunity to engage the public. During the past 46 years, we have witnessed huge January marches in Washington D.C. and people holding signs along public highways in October. Then these people disappear until the next year. We must encourage our friends and neighbors to do more, to join us in our daily efforts to save lives.

In February, prolife leaders from throughout Michigan gathered to set our course for the next two years. During the day, one of our affiliate presidents suggested a simple thing we can each do. Every day, we do just one thing to advance our prolife cause. Just one thing.

Here are some suggestions: go to our website RTL.org and share it with a friend; post a prolife event on your Facebook page, read a prolife article and send to a friend, watch some of our videos on our YouTube channel, send a letter or e-mail of appreciation to your prolife legislator; pray for both prolifers and officials like President Trump, and also for those who are pro-abortion.

As you read my column, my one request is come to our May 14th Legislative Day. Register today at RTL.org or call our Legislative office (517) 487-3376. Do it as your one prolife deed for the day. Then on May 14th, come up to me and tell me that is exactly what you did.

See you on May 14th in Lansing!

Media Cross a Line in March for Life Coverage

Very few Michigan media publications covered this year’s March for Life in-depth. That all changed with a short online video appearing to show a student at Covington Catholic High School in Kentucky, Nicholas Sandmann, staring at an older Native American man from Michigan playing a drum, Nathan Phillips. That story got a lot of attention.

The Washington Post led with a story reading like an editorial, not actual news coverage. The story characterized the children as a mob surrounding and hounding Phillips, who said they chanted “build the wall” at him in a demeaning manner. It said Sandmann “relentlessly” smirked at Phillips. It said Phillips was just trying to escape the whole situation and that the students made an “aggressive display of physicality.”

Additional video evidence has shown that Phillips’ account is entirely inaccurate and the students did nothing wrong but stand there while adults verbally abused them.

Almost everything that everyone read about the March for Life and this situation was at best gravely wrong, at worst a cynical lie to scapegoat the students. The media has enabled those false statements.

The rush to judgment on the part of the media was a violation of their basic professional ethics. Sandmann is arguably a private figure and a minor. The media ran with an account containing false information without giving Sandmann or anyone a chance to tell their side of the story. Reporters began trying to track down his personal information to expose him to the online mob. The online mob found a person who wasn’t Sandmann, and that person began receiving death threats. A CNN contributor and other members of the media expressed fantasies of committing violence against Sandmann, a minor.

The Covington kids are the latest in a long train of outrageous incidents. Mistakes happen and people get stories wrong, but why are the mistakes always slanted in favor of abortion? Why does Planned Parenthood always get favorable coverage of their false talking points? Why was America’s most prolific serial killer, Kermit Gosnell, dismissed as just a local crime story? Why do instances of prolifers being verbally abused, harassed, or mocked never turn into the social media outrage of the day?

For many prolifers, this was the last straw. If our civil discourse has any chance to recover, the media needs to adopt changes that show they are serious about treating the abortion issue fairly. This goes beyond half-hearted corrections to get out in front of potential libel lawsuits. Something must change.
Knights of Columbus Change Lives Forever

Since 2009, Knights of Columbus councils have purchased 55 new ultrasound machines for prolife pregnancy help centers in Michigan.

Through their Ultrasound Initiative, the Catholic fraternal organization’s Supreme Council will cover half the costs of a new ultrasound machine if the state or local council can raise the other half.

This initiative saves lives. This initiative also changes lives. The Michigan Knights of Columbus Pro Life Chair Couple Tim and Cindy Donovan have seen the effects of this life-saving work first-hand.

Tim said, “I’m humbled beyond belief. It’s seriously made me a better person.”

Like many stories about how people first joined the prolife movement, Tim’s story had an unexpected beginning.

In 2011, Tim served as his Knights of Columbus district’s deputy. A pregnancy help center in Brighton had an ultrasound machine close to breaking down. Tim found himself in his car, preparing to drive over to it and see how he could help.

Tim said, “I don’t know why I went down there. What was supposed to be a short meet and greet turned into a two-and-a-half-hour indoctrination as to what goes on there and what women experience.”

Like many people who say they are prolife, Tim admitted he was naive about the prolife movement. He understood the basic injustice of abortion and organizations that support it, but until that point he didn’t fully understand the urgency of the issue. What to many is just a policy issue or an occasional argument is really a battle in the heart of every person—a battle with real casualties. This reality came crashing down on Tim as he sat in his car, preparing to drive back to the real world.

Tim said, “I just completely lost it. I went home; I didn’t even go into work that day.”

While he didn’t make it to work that day, Tim went to work on a new mission. He took the pregnancy center’s director to every Knights of Columbus council in Livingston County in January 2012. In February 2012, he and others created an organization to spearhead the project, the Livingston County Ultrasound Initiative (LCUI).

By the end of February, they raised the $20,000 necessary to purchase a new ultrasound machine. Though Tim has collected many positive stories from the pregnancy centers helped by the Knights of Columbus, Tim can remember the day that first ultrasound machine went to work—April 17, 2012.

Tim said, “The very first ultrasound machine we put in, the first day it was in it had its first save.”

If just one machine can save a life in its first day, how many more lives can be saved?

The LCUI expanded their efforts to other counties in Michigan. Other pregnancy help centers also needed new ultrasound machines, and the LCUI would answer the call by getting local Knights of Columbus councils to take advantage of the opportunity created by the Supreme Council’s Ultrasound Initiative.

Since April 17, 2012, the LCUI has helped place 17 more machines. They receive reports back from the pregnancy centers they’ve helped, and their efforts have saved 1,285 lives. Since 2009, the Knights of Columbus have placed more than 1,000 new ultrasound machines.

Tim said, “Every ribbon cutting we’ve been to, the staff, the local councils, priests, clergy, everyone is just so overwhelmed by the success.”

The successes were noticed, and Tim and his wife Cindy took on the responsibility as the Pro Life Chair Couple for the entire state’s Knights of Columbus council in 2016. The Michigan Knights of Columbus have helped place 19 additional machines since 2016.

Tim said, “We’re working on machines 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60 as we speak.”

While this life-saving work has sadly gone underreported, the Knights of Columbus have been in the news lately. On December 5, presidential hopeful U.S. Senator Kamala Harris pointedly questioned a judicial nominee about his membership in the Knights of Columbus. She singled out their organization’s stance that every human being has human value in the context of the abortion issue.

Tim said he is perplexed by attacks on the prolife efforts of the Knights of Columbus, as well as broader attacks on prolife pregnancy centers. Both the Knights of Columbus and prolife pregnancy centers don’t just speak about the issue of abortion, but they do something about it. They strive to help women who find themselves facing difficult circumstances. Who could oppose that?

Tim said, “That’s all we do, is charity work.”

While the efforts of the Knights of Columbus at every level deserve commendation for their efforts to help save lives, Tim is quick to credit the Holy Spirit for motivating people to action. It takes a wide community effort to raise the funds necessary to pay for ultrasound machines.

These efforts are greater than just giving scared and confused women the first picture of their child. They are more than the thousands and thousands of lives saved through the Knights of Columbus’ Ultrasound Initiative. Tim said it’s an opportunity to stand up and be a needed voice for the voiceless in local communities.

Tim reflected about his eight grandchildren and what kind of culture they will inherit. When he travels to speak about the Ultrasound Initiative, Tim said he will challenge his audience to take advantage of this opportunity. Will the next generation inherit a culture that values every member of the human family, or a culture cold and indifferent—even hostile—to the most vulnerable members of our common family?

Tim said, “I always ask them, ‘what have each of you done to make a difference to build a culture of life?’”

Taking the First Steps of Motherhood

Are you pregnant? Are you asking yourself how you can do this? There are a lot of people and organizations in Detroit eager to help make motherhood work for you.

Visit helpintheD.org to find free or low-cost assistance in Detroit.
Capitol Report: Preparing for the Term Ahead and an Abortion-Free Michigan

By now, most have heard about the horrific late-term abortion law that was passed in New York which allows abortions up to the point of birth. The nation was shocked to see the celebrations over such blatant disregard for human life. Then we watched as the governor of Virginia took to the airwaves and championed a similar bill that was making its way through their legislature.

As most everyone knows, in 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States passed Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion in all 50 states up to the point of viability, and throughout all nine months of pregnancy if there was a “health” reason for the abortion.

What most don’t know is that on the same day, the U.S. Supreme Court also passed Doe v. Bolton, which defined “health” as physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and relative to the woman’s age. So, because of these two Supreme Court decisions, abortions throughout all nine months of pregnancy are legal for any reason a woman and her doctor decide affects her “health.”

If late-term abortions are already legal under federal law, why are these states pushing to change their laws? The answer: they fear the overturning of Roe v. Wade. These states are changing their state laws to conform with the abortion provisions afforded by Roe and Doe. When those opinions are overturned, and the abortion decision goes back to the states. States like New York with late-term abortion laws will continue with business as usual.

As more and more states have introduced legislation that would expand their abortion laws, RLM has received calls and emails from people who are outraged. People want to make sure Michigan is not following suit.

So, where does Michigan stand? Since 1846, Michigan has had an unbroken prohibition on all abortions except those necessary to save the life of the mother. Our state laws already ban late-term abortion. They ban abortions when the baby can feel pain, they ban abortions on babies with heartbeats, and they ban abortions of disabled babies. When Roe and Doe are overturned, and the abortion decision comes back to the states, and abortions will be illegal in the state of Michigan—provided we can to do two things.

First, we must maintain a pro-life majority in the Michigan House or Senate to prevent our old law from being overturned. A bill to repeal our long-standing abortion prohibition was introduced in January. Our pro-abortion governor, Gretchen Whitmer, would happily sign a bill to repeal our old law. Fortunately, our current pro-life majorities in the House and Senate will prevent that bill from making its way to the Governor’s desk.

We are always only one election away from a pro-abortion governor and Legislature repealing our pro-life law. Elections have consequences. For our issues, our electoral consequences could mean the difference between saving and losing 25,000 lives a year.

The second thing we need to do is be prepared to defend our law against a public vote when Roe and Doe go. It’s easy to get things on the ballot in Michigan, and abortion supporters will undoubtedly challenge our law the second it goes back into effect.

We must always be educating others, changing the culture, and convincing our fellow Michiganders that we will one day be an abortion-free state.

While we wait for those days, Right to Life of Michigan is actively working to prevent laws that would weaken our current protection of the unborn and to expand protections where we can.

Recently, State Rep. Jim Lower and 32 other pro-life co-sponsors introduced a resolution declaring, “It is this legislative body’s policy to protect life by preserving legal protections for unborn children under Michigan law and to recognize that any abortion is a tragic loss of human life.”

Our pro-life women representatives put out a call to us for “feet pins” to wear to the State of the State address. Several of our affiliates answered the call and provided enough pins for every pro-life member of both the Michigan House and Senate to wear!

Most importantly, a bill to ban horrific dismemberment abortions will be introduced shortly. The dismemberment abortion ban will amend Michigan’s partial-birth abortion ban and outlaw the barbaric D&E abortion procedure. While it won’t prevent all abortions, it will criminalize the barbaric, dehumanizing practice of tearing living babies apart limb from limb. This bill will give Michigan an opportunity to protect lives now and declare our opposition to New York’s embrace of abortion-on-demand in a very meaningful way.

46th Annual March for Life

The 46th Annual March for Life was held in Washington, D.C. on January 18, 2019. Right to Life of Michigan affiliates brought more that 900 people to the March for Life on bus trips. The 2019 March keynote speaker was Ben Shapiro, who recorded his famous podcast live before the rally. Vice President Mike Pence made a surprise appearance to give an optimistic address to the crowd.
Affiliate Spotlight

Every year in January many Right to Life of Michigan affiliates across the state host events to mark the annual memorial of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton and to celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. If you’re not connected to your local affiliate, visit RTL.org and sign-up to volunteer today, or call us at (616) 532-2300.

Jackson Right to Life hosted their annual Motorcade for Life and Interdenominational Prayer Service. Their procession began at Planned Parenthood and ended at the cemetery for a ceremonial wreath laying.

50 people attended Gladwin County Right to Life’s Sanctity of Human Life event. They also began their event at a local courthouse where they had a prayer and then listened to their President Pastor Lynn Chappell speak.

About 60 attended Tuscola County Right to Life’s Sanctity of Human Life Sunday event. They began in prayer at the courthouse in Caro, and then marched to the Blessing Center to hear speakers, including Rep. Phil Green.

Bad weather did not discourage Huron County Right to Life. Their event was supposed to be on January 20, but when hazardous weather hit, they rescheduled for an indoor location on January 27. They had about 70 people in attendance to honor the unborn and stand for life.

Every year Gaylord Right to Life hosts a red-eye bus trip to the March for Life. They took two buses in 2019.

Lenawee County Right to Life held a memorial to honor the unborn on January 21 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Adrian. About 70 people attended.
Preparing For Tomorrow

People who have completed their wills and/or living trusts often tell us it was definitely well worth their time and effort. They might even say they thought they were too young to have these documents drafted. Or you might hear them say they procrastinated for years, but now that it’s done, they don’t know what took them so long. Sound like anybody you know?

The truth of the matter is that more than 70% of the U.S. population does not have a will or living trust. That’s a very big number considering that one day we’re all going to die, we don’t know when that day will come, and we will leave all our earthly possessions behind regardless of how we feel about that reality.

We need to be prepared. Completing a will or trust is one way we can prepare for ourselves and our loved ones.

Consider talking to a prolife estate planning attorney about how you can complete one of these two documents in the near future. If you’d like more information, Right to Life of Michigan can help.

Information provided above is for the purpose of providing general answers to commonly asked questions. None of the information contained herein is intended as legal advice or legal opinion relative to specific matters, facts, situations or issues. Please contact an attorney for specific legal advice.

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY • CLIP & SEND

☐ Send me a FREE Will and Living Trust Information Kit.
☐ Send me the most up-to-date FREE listing of prolife estate planning attorneys in my area.
☐ Send me information about how to leave a bequest gift in my Will or Living Trust to Right to Life of Michigan, or the RLM Educational Fund, or the RLM Educational Endowment Fund.

NAME

ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL

MAIL TO:

Right to Life of Michigan - Gift Planning Office
1505 Pebble Beach Dr., Pontiac, MI 48340

32019

Thinking of others, supporting life

You can remember a deceased loved one or honor one of the special people in your life through a tax-deductible memorial or honorary contribution to the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund.

A thoughtful acknowledgment will be sent to the family or person you designate, while the gift amount will remain confidential. Visit RTL.org and click on the “Giving” tab. Or, send a check with information about the memorial or honorarium to:

RLM Educational Fund
P.O. Box 901
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

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Registration at 8:45 a.m.  
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*Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate*  
&

**Lee Chatfield**  
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Visit RTL.org for more information or to register securely online.

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**REPECT LIFE**
**41st Annual Benefit Dinner**

**Date**
**THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019**
Social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**Venue**
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**Keynote Speaker**
**SCOTT KLUSENDORF**  
President, Life Training Institute

**Mistress of Ceremonies**
**CHRISTEN POLLO**  
Executive Director, Protect Life Michigan

Find more details and register online at [RTL.org](http://RTL.org).